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GCPDGUY

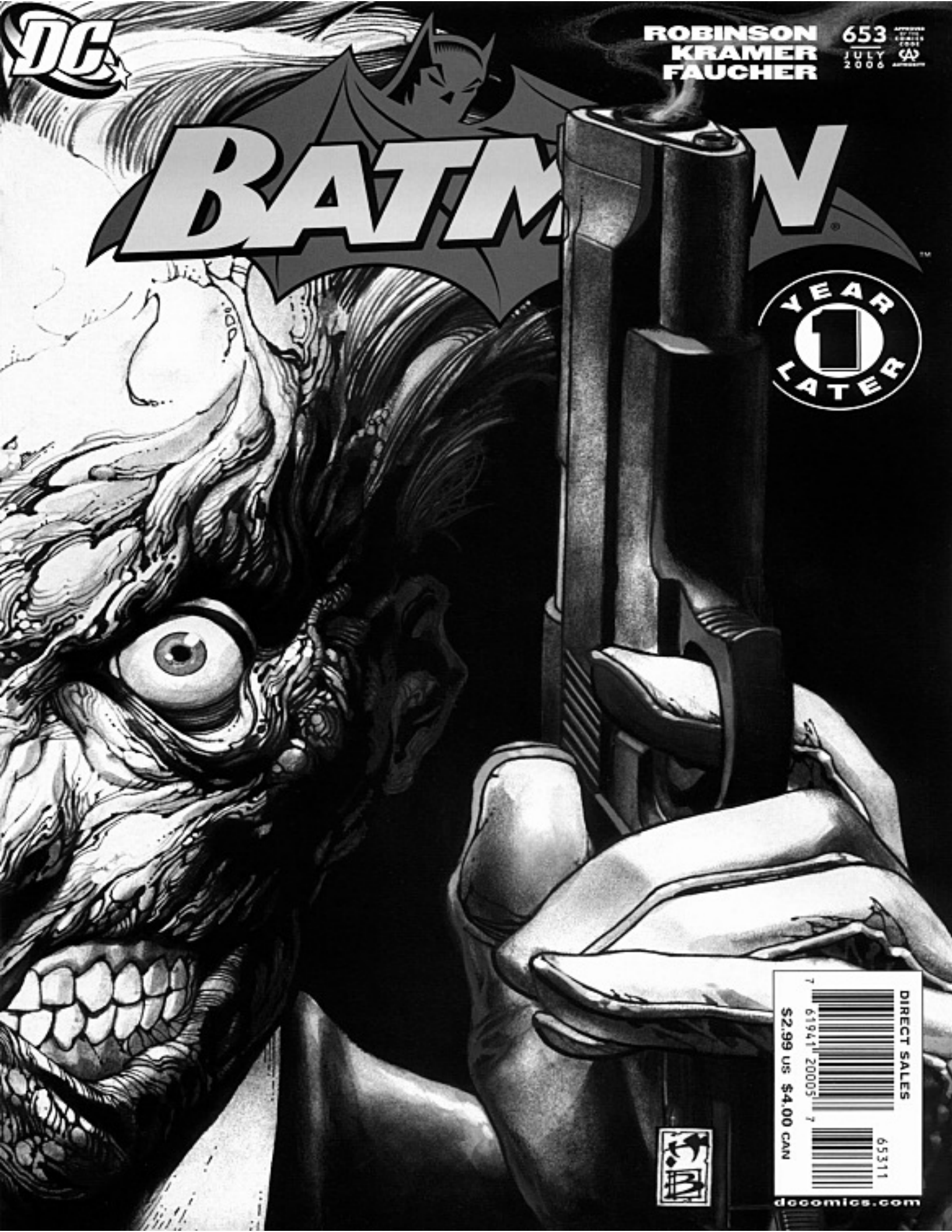


ROBINSON
KRAMER
FAUCHER

653
JULY
2006



BATMAN



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ADMIT
IT!

NEVER!

ADMIT
I'M GETTING
TO YOU.

NO.

LETOM

DO
YOU REMEMBER
WHAT IT WAS LIKE?
BEING ONE? YOU AND
I, US. TOGETHER.

HARVEY?

WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU
WANT?

I WANT YOU
TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THE LIFE WE
SHARED.

OH, I ACKNOWLEDGE
IT, ALL RIGHT. EVERY
TWISTED SECOND OF
IT HAPPENED.

AND IT WAS
GOOD.

NO.

BETTER THAN
ANYTHING.

BETTER
THAN SEX.

HEROIN.

COCAINE.

WEED.

OPIUM.

VALIUM.

CRYSTAL.

ACID.

ECSTASY.

BETTER
THAN ALL OF
IT COMBINED.

ADMIT
IT!

NO.

ADMIT
I'M GETTING
TO YOU.

I'LL NEVER
ADMIT SOMETHING
THAT ISN'T TRUE...
AND NO...

FACE THE FOE

PART 6 OF 8

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WORKED UP
A SWEAT?

YEAH.

DIDN'T
SWEAT ME OUT
OF YOU THOUGH,
DID YOU.



ALL RIGHT,
LET ME ASK
YOU THIS...

...WHY AM
I BACK?

WHERE
DID I GO? WHY?
AND WHY HAVE
I CHOSEN NOW
TO RETURN?



YOU WERE
FINE.

YOU WERE...
DARE I SAY
IT...HAPPY.

WHAT'S
DIFFERENT?



I HAD A
PURPOSE. I WAS
GOTHAM'S SECRET
GUARDIAN.

IT WASN'T
LIKE IT ONCE
WAS...D.A. OF THE
CITY. THE MAN.
NO. BUT...

...IT WAS
ENOUGH FOR
ME THIS TIME
AROUND.



AND
WHEN DID IT
CHANGE?

BATMAN.

WHAT?
I DIDN'T
QUITE CATCH
THAT.



BATMAN.

WHEN
BATMAN CAME
BACK. TOOK
MY JOB AWAY
FROM ME.

BUT...

...IT WAS
HIS TO TAKE.



HOW SO?



WELL IT WAS
HIM WHO GAVE
IT TO ME IN THE
FIRST PLACE.



HELLO
HARVEY.

BATMAN.



HOW
ARE YOU?
I'VE HEARD
GOOD
THINGS.

THE DOCTORS
THINK MY MIND IS
HEALED. CURED.
HEALED AND
CURED.



AND
AS YOU CAN
SEE, MY
FACE ISN'T
TOO SHABBY
EITHER.



YOU ALWAYS
WERE A VAIN
ONE.



IT'S THE
SIN I KEEP
PAYING
FOR.



I'VE
MET WITH
THEM.

YOUR
DOCTORS.
SKILLED
MEN.



NOT LIKE
THE *RUBBISH*
RUNNING
ARKHAM.

HELL,
A MANIAC WITH
A BLOODY MACHETE
COULD TALK HIS
WAY OUT OF THAT
PLACE.



NO,
THESE MEN
WERE *NOTHING*
LIKE THAT.

THESE MEN
I *RESPECT*. WHICH
IS WHY I'M COMING
TO YOU WITH AN
OFFER.

I'M GOING
AWAY.



AWAY? AS IN
WHEN YOU'RE OFF
WHEREVER IT IS
YOU GO WITH THE
JLA? DAYS?
A WEEK?



NO,
LONGER,
I'D SAY.

CONSIDERABLY
SO. I CAN'T SAY
HOW LONG FOR
SURE.







YOU'RE CURED.

EVERY
RELIABLE
OPINION
AGREES.



YES, SO. WHAT
MAKES YOU THINK
I'M CRAZY ENOUGH
TO JUMP BACK INTO
THE STEW OF EVIL
THAT'S GOTHAM'S
UNDERWORLD...

...THAT
IS **EVEN** IF
THIS TIME I'M
FIGHTING
IT?



ROBIN AND
NIGHTWING ARE
GOING, YOU
SAY?

WHAT ABOUT
BATGIRL?

I'D RATHER
NOT DISCUSS
HER.

HUNTRESS.

HOW
EFFECTIVE WAS
SHE EVEN PRIOR
TO EVERYTHING?

THE
CREEPER'S BACK
IN GOTHAM.



YES,
AND HAVE YOU
EVER TRIED
TALKING TO
HIM?

RAGMAN.

HE'S **CHANGED**.
AND HE'S OFF
SOMEWHERE. BEING
SPOOKY. YOU SHOULD
SEE THE COMPANY HE
KEEPS NOW. HE'S **NOT**
IN GOTHAM IS ALL
I KNOW.

ANY OTHER
SUGGESTIONS?

I REMEMBER
HOW YOU WERE.

I REMEMBER
THE **RIGHTEOUS** FIRE
OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY
HARVEY DENT, MY
PARTNER IN FIGHTING
CRIME.

AT LEAST
THAT WAS HOW
IT **FELT** WHEN
I STARTED
OUT.

BEFORE ROBIN.

BEFORE
TWO-FACE.





WE SHOWED THEM
OTHERWISE.





AND THEN?

I WAS LEFT TO MY OWN DEVICES.

AND THEN?

I WAS LEFT TO MY OWN DEVICES.

ALL
THE TRICKS AND
SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE
GAINED AS YOU BECAME
THE TOOLS WITH WHICH
I FOUGHT MONSTERS
LIKE YOU.

YOU ENJOYED IT?

HONESTLY...



AND THEN HE CAME BACK... BATMAN... AND YOU WERE NO LONGER NEEDED OR WANTED.

FURTHERMORE...



...THE MURDERS. YOU'RE FRAMED, YOU'RE BLAMED.

WHOEVER IS BEHIND THIS IS A MYSTERY!



WAS IT YOU?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



DID YOU KILL THEM? THIS... YOU APPEARING LIKE THIS... HAVE YOU BEEN THERE BEFORE NOW... HAVE YOU THE POWER TO TAKE ME OVER?



ONLY IF YOU WANT ME TO, HARVEY.

THAT ISN'T ANSWERING THE QUESTION.

I KNOW.

BUT THE FACT REMAINS, THE BLAME CAME FROM ONE PERSON...



...BATMAN.

NO, THERE'S EVIDENCE. HE—

THERE WAS EVIDENCE POINTING AT HIM BEING A MURDERER ONCE UPON A TIME. OTHERS STOOD BY HIM. BELIEVED.

YOU. WHAT EVIDENCE COULD THERE POSSIBLY BE?

HARVEY.

YES.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

HOW MUCH I HATE YOU.

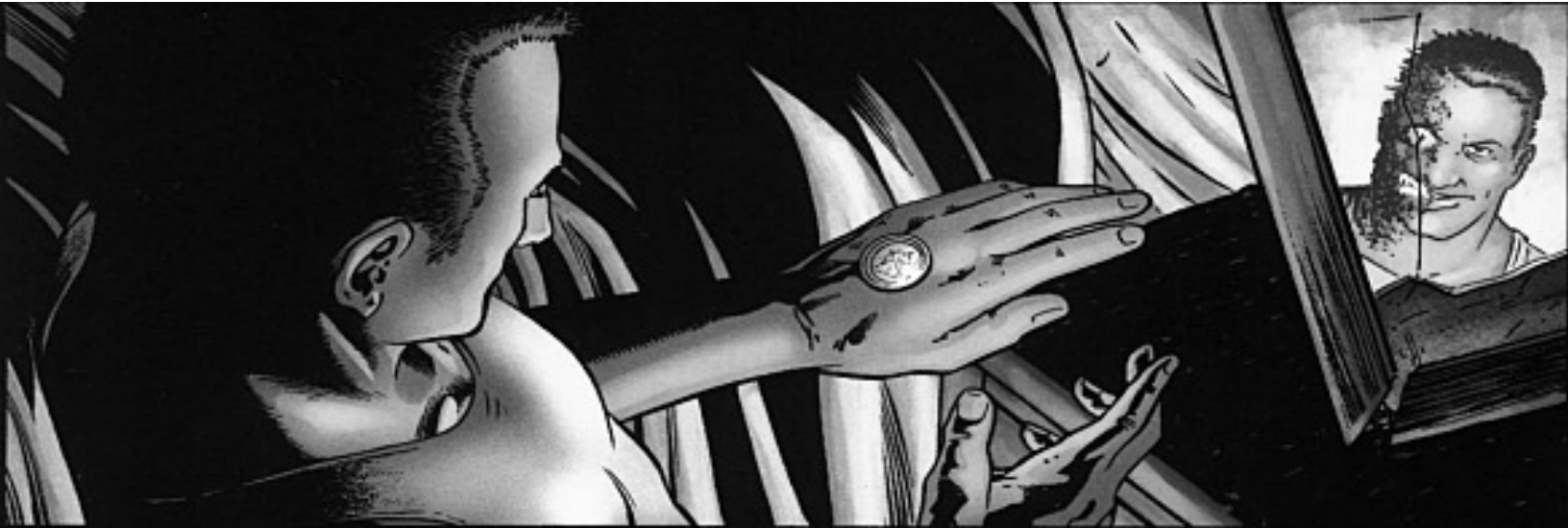
WHY?

BECAUSE I AGREE WITH YOU. BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO.













END OF PART SIX

**A YEAR WITHOUT
SUPERMAN,
BATMAN AND
WONDER WOMAN...**

**...BUT NOT
A YEAR WITHOUT
HEROES.**

**After INFINITE CRISIS.
Before ONE YEAR LATER.**

52

WRITTEN BY
**GEOFF JOHNS
GRANT MORRISON
GREG RUCKA
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ART BY
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